

Learning Western Armenian



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Prepared by Robert G. Bedrosian

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Grammars

[A Textbook of Modern Western Armenian](#), by Kevork B. Bardakjian and Robert W. Thomson (Delmar, New York, 1977), in 327 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages. This is the best single work available for English speakers, written by two distinguished educators. From the Preface: "This textbook of modern Western Armenian is designed as a first year course at the undergraduate level. It is specifically aimed at students with no prior knowledge of Armenian...The vocabulary is based on the thousand most frequent words in Armenian." However, there is no need to settle for just one book. The books below also could enhance your enjoyment of learning Western Armenian.

[Western Armenian for the English-speaking World: A Contrastive Approach](#), by Dora Sakayan (Erevan, 2012), in 479 bookmarked and searchable pdf pages. This excellent work uses the Armenian alphabet and Romanization throughout the book, and is ideal for beginners as well as more advanced students. The author is an acclaimed linguist, specializing in Germanic linguistics, a translator, and author, and is considered a pioneer in Armenian Studies in Canada.

[Spoken West Armenian](#), by Gordon H. Fairbanks (New York, 1958), in 220 searchable and bookmarked pdf pages. A publication of the *American Council of Learned Societies*. This is an

excellent beginner's book, intended to teach Western Armenian using Romanization and the Armenian alphabet, side by side. Contents: Introduction: Pronunciation; 1. Useful Words and Phrases; 2. Meeting People; 3. Where Are You From? 4. A Place to Live; 5. Review Lesson; 6. Pen and Paper; 7. Seeing the Sights; 8. Shopping; 9. At the Restaurant; 10. Review; 11. The Weather; 12. At the Barber's; 13. Traveling; 14. News; 15. Review; Armenian-English Vocabulary.

[Elementary Modern Armenian Grammar](#), Kevork H. Gulian (New York, 1902; reprinted many times), in 196 pdf pages. Excellent grammar for English speakers wanting to learn Western Armenian. Includes reading exercises, selections of useful words, phrases for Armenian conversation and Armenian-English, English-Armenian vocabularies.

[Պատկերազարդ գրուցատրութիւն հայերէնէ անգլիերէն \[Illustrated Armenian-English Conversation\]](#), by I. A. Eran (Boston, 1920; fourth edition), in 352 bookmarked pdf pages. Comprises: Everyday Conversation, Letter Writing, Grammar, English-Armenian Reader, and Useful Information. The English part is searchable. This excellent and practical bilingual book can teach you English and/or Western Armenian.

[A Self-Instructor in the English Language \[Ինքնսուղիչ անգլերէն լեզուի Ink'nusuts'ich' angleren lezui\]](#) (New York, 1918), in 777 pdf pages. This is an Armenian-language work which gives a thorough instruction in English grammar, pronunciation, and much more. It is an admirable and impressive book. The title page has some historical interest, too, mentioning that the book was written "According to the latest pedagogical system, based on New York State Education Department's six year elementary course in English. Prepared especially for the use of Armenians in English speaking countries." This remarkable book may be one of the best available for Armenians learning English, even though it was written more than a century ago. It could also be used to advantage by Anglophones wishing to learn Armenian.

[Armeno-American Letter Writer \[Ամերիկահայ նամակաւոր Amerikahay namakani\]](#), by H. H. Chakmakjian (Boston, 1914), in 447 pdf pages. *Containing a large variety of model letters adapted to all occasions: letters of friendship, letters of congratulation and condolence, letters of love, business letters.* A bilingual work useful for Armenophones as well as Anglophones.

[Զրուցատրական քերականութիւն անգլիերէն լուզուի Zruts'atrankan k'erakanut'iwn angliere'n luzui \[Conversational Grammar of the English Language\]](#), by A. Moron, translated into Armenian by Kevork H. Gulian (Heidelberg, 1901), in 265 pdf pages.

[A Grammar Armenian and English](#), by Yarus'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher (Venice, 1832), in 245 pdf pages. English-language grammar of Armenian.

Readers

[A Graded West Armenian Reader](#), by James Etmekjian (Cambridge, MA, 1963), in 192 searchable and bookmarked pages. This invaluable teaching aid contains selections from the writings of noted Western Armenian writers (R. Zartarian, H. Toomanian, A. Arpiarian, Hrant, L. Pashalian, Yerookhan, and K. Zohrab), accompanied by English vocabulary and notes, and exercises. The author was a

specialist in the teaching of the French and Armenian languages and literatures, and a beloved figure in the Armenian-American community.

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In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many popular works were translated into Western Armenian from English and French. The editions below have the English or French originals attached, so they could be used for language study. Even though some of them have slightly "classical" grammar here and there, they still are great for vocabulary and word order, which haven't changed much.

English

[Թխորակ Գեղակիկ \[Black Beauty\]](#), by Anna Sewell, in 199 pdf pages, bookmarked by chapter. This is an Armenian translation (Constantinople, 1911) of an English classic (London, 1877). A Wikipedia entry ([Black Beauty](#)) describes the history of the author, and the plot—which is told from the standpoint of the horse: "While forthrightly teaching animal welfare, it also teaches how to treat people with kindness, sympathy, and respect. In 2003, the novel was listed at number 58 on the BBC's survey The Big Read." Beginning with his early life and his mother's good advice, Black Beauty relates the circumstances of his life, his many owners, kind and cruel, and his varied occupations.

[Շէքսպիրեան աւանդավէպեր \[Tales from Shakespeare\]](#), by Charles and Mary Lamb, translated from English to Armenian by M. Veratsin (Boston, 1922), in 212 bookmarked pdf pages. According to the Wikipedia entry ([Tales from Shakespeare](#)), this excellent work "is an English children's book written by brother and sister Charles and Mary Lamb in 1807. The book is designed to make the stories of Shakespeare's plays familiar to the young." The Armenian translation contains 10 of the 20 episodes. Attached to the document are the English originals

[Կեանքի գործածութիւնը \[The Use of Life\]](#), by John Lubbock (Constantinople, 1908). This is an Armenian translation made from the English original (1894) by Grigor Oskean/Oskian, in 203 pdf pages, bookmarked by chapter. A Wikipedia entry describes the life of this great British polymath, who made contributions to many fields including archaeology, natural history, zoology, biology, botany, cultural history, public education, and law ([John Lubbock, 1st Baron Avebury](#)). Many of his other excellent works are available at Internet Archive. In *The Use of Life*, Lubbock (1834-1913) explains how life might be happily, pleasurably, and profitably lived. This is a very worthwhile book, full of good, practical advice.

[Առակը Լաֆոնտէնի \[The Fables of La Fontaine\]](#), Anton Garagashean, translator (Vienna, 1894), in 499 pdf pages, bookmarked by book and chapter. This is an Armenian translation of the delightful fables collected by Jean de La Fontaine. A Wikipedia entry ([Jean de La Fontaine](#)) describes the life of this unusual author, who was one of the most popular French writers of the 17th century. Another Wikipedia entry ([La Fontaine's Fables](#)) describes the fables and their contents.

[Ճամբորդութիւնք Կիւիպէրի ի գանազան հեռակաց ազգս աշխարհի ի Յովնաթան Սուիֆթայ.](#) [[Gulliver's Travels into Several Remote Regions of the World by Jonathan Swift](#)], in 788 pdf pages, bookmarked by part and chapter. This is an Armenian translation (Smyrna, 1857), made by Sargis Gasporean/Gasparian, of Swift's hilarious satirical journeys (1726), in four parts: 1. [Ճամբորդութիւն ի Լիլիփուլթ](#) [A Voyage to Lilliput]; 2. [Ճամբորդութիւն ի Պրոպտինկնակ](#) [A Voyage to Brobdingnag]; 3. [Ճամբորդութիւն ի Լափութա, ի Պալնիպարպի, ի Լընկնակկ, ի Կլըպպտըպտրիպ, Եւ ի Ճափոն](#) [A Voyage to Laputa, Balnibarbi, Luggnagg, Glubbdubdrib, and Japan]; and 4. [Ճամբորդութիւն յերկիրն Հոսյհնհնմաց](#) [A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms]. A Wikipedia entry ([Jonathan Swift](#)) describes the remarkable life of Swift, Ireland's most popular author. Attached to the document is the English original, also indexed by part and chapter.

[Սահմանադրութիւն Միացեալ Նահանգաց.](#) [[Constitution of the United States](#)], bilingual edition (1922). The concepts and vocabulary of this remarkable document are inspiring in all languages; in this case, in Western Armenian. A Wikipedia entry ([Constitution of the United States](#)) describes its history and background. This extract is an appendix from H. H. Chakmakjian's *A Comprehensive Dictionary English-Armenian/Ընդարձակ Բառարան անգլ.-հայ.* (Boston, 1922), pp. 1412-1435, in 25 searchable pdf pages, bookmarked by Article and Amendment.

French

[Պ. Տը Գամօր.](#) [[Monsieur de Camors](#)], by Octave Feuillet, translated from French to Armenian by Gr. Ch'ilinkirean (Smyrna, 1876), in 320 bookmarked and searchable pdf pages. The life and achievements of this 19th-century French novelist and dramatist are described in a [Wikipedia entry](#). Attached to the document are the French original and an English translation

[Կենսագրութիւն Պասքալայ.](#) [[Life of Pascal](#)], by Gilberte Pascal Perier (Jerusalem, 1869), in 99 bookmarked pdf pages. This is an Armenian translation, made by M. S. Ter Step'anean/Stepanian, of the French biography of Blaise Pascal, written by his sister (Paris, 1684). A Wikipedia entry ([Blaise Pascal](#)) describes the life and works of this renowned mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, and theologian. Attached to the document are the French original, and an English translation.

[ՍԵՎԻՅԻ ՍԱՓՐԻՅԵՐ.](#) [[The Barber of Seville](#)], by Pierre Beaumarchais, translated from French to Armenian by M. Mamurean (Polis, 1862), in 58 pdf pages, bookmarked by act and scene. A Wikipedia entry ([Barber of Seville](#)) describes the plot and themes of this four-act play, which was written in 1773 and intended as a musical comedy. According to the Wikipedia entry about the author: "At various times in his life, he was a watchmaker, inventor, playwright, musician, diplomat, spy, publisher, horticulturist, arms dealer, satirist, financier, and revolutionary (both

French and American)." Attached to the document is the French original, also bookmarked by act and scene.

[Արկաճք Տելեմաքայ \[The Adventures of Telemachus\]](#), by François Fénelon, in 721 pdf pages, bookmarked by chapter. This is an Armenian translation (Venice, 1850; reprint of the 1826 edition), made by Eduard Hiwrmiwzean/Hurmuz, of the popular French novel, *Les Aventures de Télémaque* (Paris, 1699). According to a Wikipedia entry ([François Fénelon](#)) the work "became an immediate best seller both in France and abroad, going through many editions and translated into every European language and even Latin verse." Its clerical author is considered a reformer and defender of human rights. Attached to the document is the French original. Internet Archive also has an [English translation](#) of this classic and enjoyable novel.

Dictionaries

English

[English-Armenian Dictionary](#) (Erevan, 1984), compiled by H. A. Asmangulian and M. I. Hovhannisian, and containing some 30,000 entries, in 1143 pdf pages. This excellent work is bookmarked by letter of the alphabet, and the English is searchable.

[English-Armenian Dictionary](#) (Erevan, 2011), compiled by N. R. Baratyan, and containing some 70,000 entries, in 952 searchable pdf pages.

A Comprehensive Dictionary English-Armenian [Ընդարձակ բառարան անգլ.-հայ E"ndardzak bar'aran angl.-hay] (Boston, 1922), compiled by H. H. Chakmakjian, in 1451 pdf pages, indexed by letter of the alphabet. One of the best. It includes appendices of abbreviations, mythological names, geographical names, important individuals, men's and women's names, important dates in world history and Armenian history, Almanac-type information, the U.S. Constitution (bilingual), etiquette, foreign words in English, and more. [A Comprehensive Dictionary English-Armenian](#).

[Բառարան հայերէն եւ անգղիական Bar'aran hayere'n ew angghikan \[A Dictionary Armenian and English\]](#), compiled by Yarut'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher and John Brand (Venice, 1868, repr. of 1821 edition), in 1021 pdf pages. Volume 1, **English to Armenian**.

[Բառարան հայերէն եւ անգղիական Bar'aran hayere'n ew angghikan \[A Dictionary Armenian and English\]](#), compiled by Yarut'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher and John Brand (Venice, 1825), in 679 pdf pages. Volume 2, **Armenian to English**.

[A Dictionary English-Armenian](#), compiled by V. H. Hagopian (Constantinople, 1907), in 1045 pdf pages.

[A Practical Dictionary, Armenian-English](#), compiled by Z. D. S. Papazian (Constantinople, 1905), in 523 pdf pages.

Pierre François Viguier's three dictionaries (Venice, 1843):

volume 1: [Համառոտ բառարան յանգղիկանէ ի հայ եւ ի տաճիկ](#) [Hamar'o't bar'aran yangghikane' i hay ew i tachik](#) [[A Pocket Dictionary of the English, Armenian and Turkish Languages](#)], **English to Armenian and Turkish**, 499 pdf pages;

volume 2: [Համառոտ բառարան ի հայէ յանգղիական եւ ի տաճիկ](#) [Hamar'o't bar'aran i haye' yangghiakan ew i tachik](#) [[A Pocket Dictionary of the Armenian, English and Turkish Languages](#)], **Armenian to English and Turkish**, 519 pdf pages;

volume 3: [Համառոտ բառարան ի տաճկերէնէ յանգղիական եւ ի հայ բարբառ](#) [Hamar'o't bar'aran i tachkerene' yangghiakan ew i hay barbar'](#) [[A Pocket Dictionary of the Turkish, English and Armenian Languages](#)], **Turkish to English and Armenian**, 267 pdf pages.

The Turkish uses Armenian characters.

Google Translate:

[English to Armenian](#). Fine for individual words; however, if full sentences are entered, the translation is to Eastern Armenian.

[Armenian to English](#)

French

[Բառարան ֆրանսերէնէ հայերէն](#) [Bar'aran fransere'ne' hayere'n](#) [[Dictionary French to Armenian](#)], compiled by Eghia Te'mirchipashean (Constantinople, 1896), in 1027 pdf pages. One of the best. Unfortunately, some of the first few pages are mangled, and there is other truncation. This recent edition is bookmarked by letter of the alphabet.

[Բառգիրք հայ-գաղղիարէն](#) [Bar'girk' hay-gaghghiare'n](#) [[Dictionary Armenian-French](#)], compiled by Ambrosios Galfayean/Ambroise Calfa (Paris, 1861), in 1073 pdf pages.

[Բառարան համառոտ ի գաղղիականէ ի հայ](#) [Bar'aran hamar'o't i gaghghiakane' i hay](#) [[Concise Dictionary French to Armenian](#)], compiled by Yarut'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher (Venice, 1812), in 621 pdf pages. Volume 1, **French to Armenian**.

[Բառարան համառոտ](#) [Bar'aran hamar'o't](#) [[Concise Dictionary Armenian to French](#)], compiled by Yarut'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher (Venice, 1817), in 741 pdf pages. Volume 2, **Armenian to French**.

[Բառգիրք ի գաղղիականէ ի հայ եւ ի տաճիկ թարբանս Bar'girk' i gaghghiakane' i hay ew i tachik barbar's \[Dictionary French to Armenian and Turkish\]](#), compiled by Yarus'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher (Venice, 1840), in 763 pdf pages. The Turkish uses Armenian characters.

[Գաղղերէն թերականութիւն ըստ Օլենտօրֆի Gaghiere'n k'erakanut'iwn e"st O'le'nto'rfi \[French Grammar According to the Olendorf Method\]](#), by A. M. Garagashean (Constantinople, 1882, second printing), in 383 pdf pages.

[Տեսական եւ գործնական թերականութիւն ֆռանսերէնի Tesakan ew gortsakan k'erakanut'iwn fr'ansere'ni \[Theoretical and Practical Grammar of French\]](#), by Eghiazar Muratean (Constantinople, 1875), in 218 pdf pages.

Google Translate:

[French to Armenian](#). Bon pour les mots individuels; cependant, si des phrases complètes sont saisies, la traduction est en arménien oriental.

[Armenian to French](#)

Turkish

[Համառօտ թարարան ի հայէ ի տաճիկ Hamar'o't bar'aran i haye' i tachik \[Concise Dictionary Armenian to Turkish\]](#), compiled by Yakovbos Po'zachean (Vienna, 1838), in 571 pdf pages. Volume 1, **Armenian to Turkish** The Turkish uses Armenian characters.

[Համառօտ թարարան ի տաճկականէ ի հայ Hamar'o't bar'aran i tachkakane' i hay \[Concise Dictionary Turkish to Armenian\]](#), compiled by Yakovbos Po'zachean (Vienna, 1841), in 1057 pdf pages. Volume 2, **Turkish to Armenian** The Turkish uses Armenian characters.

[Ընդարձակ թարարան հայերէնէ տաճկերէն E"ndardzak bar'aran hayere'ne' tachkere'n \[Comprehensive Dictionary Armenian to Turkish\]](#), compiled by Mihran Abikean (Constantinople, 1891), in 297 pdf pages. The Turkish uses Arabic script.

[Other dictionaries by Abikean](#)

[Բառգիրք ի գաղղիականէ ի հայ եւ ի տաճիկ թարբանս Bar'girk' i gaghghiakane' i hay ew i tachik barbar's \[Dictionary French to Armenian and Turkish\]](#), compiled by Yarus'iwn Awgerean/Paschal Aucher (Venice, 1840), in 763 pdf pages. The Turkish uses Armenian characters.

Pierre François Viguier's three dictionaries (Venice, 1843):

volume 1: [Համառօտ թարարան յանգղիկականէ ի հայ եւ ի տաճիկ Hamar'o't bar'aran yangghikane' i hay ew i tachik \[A Pocket Dictionary of the English, Armenian and Turkish Languages\]](#), **English to Armenian and Turkish**, 499 pdf pages;

volume 2: [Համառոտ բառարան ի հայէ յանգղիական եւ ի տաճիկ](#) [Hamar'o't bar'aran i haye' yangghiakan ew i tachik](#) [[A Pocket Dictionary of the Armenian, English and Turkish Languages](#)], **Armenian to English and Turkish**, 519 pdf pages;

volume 3: [Համառոտ բառարան ի տաճկերէնէ յանգղիական եւ ի հայ բարբառ](#) [Hamar'o't bar'aran i tachkerene' yangghiakan ew i hay barbar'](#) [[A Pocket Dictionary of the Turkish, English and Armenian Languages](#)], **Turkish to English and Armenian**, 267 pdf pages.

The Turkish uses Armenian characters.

[Բառագիրք երեքլեզուեան, տաճկերէն-հայերէն-գաղղիերէն](#) [Bar'agirk' erek'lezuean, tachkere'n-hayere'n-gaghghiere'n](#) [[Trilingual Dictionary, Turkish-Armenian-French](#)], by Ambrosios K'iwp'e'lean (Vienna, 1883), in 995 pdf pages. The Turkish uses Armenian characters. This excellent work begins with a 30 page summary of Ottoman grammar.

Google Translate:

[Turkish to Armenian](#). Bireysel kelimeler için iyidir. Ancak, tam cümleler girilirse, çeviri Doğu Ermenicesine yapılır.

[Armenian to Turkish](#)

Classical Armenian

If you are interested in learning Classical Armenian (*grabar*), the following page has suggestions for a completely free Internet education: [Learning Classical Armenian \(grabar\) on the Internet](#).



[Miscellaneous Armenian-Language Books of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries at Internet Archive](#).

This is a clickable index for some of Internet Archive's Armenian-language resources. These books, which were selected for their unusual illustrations, charts, tables, topics, and/or antiquarian interest, are examples of the breadth and fineness of some popular Armenian printed works.

[Armenian Resource Guides at Internet Archive](#)